

# Supplement to the Report of the Finance Committee 2024 Annual Town Meeting

Changes voted on April 24, 2024

## ARTICLE 61

## APPROPRIATION / OVERLAY RESERVE

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from previous years overlay reserve surplus accounts, determine to what purpose this appropriation shall be made; or take any action related thereto.  
(Inserted at the request of the Finance Committee)

**VOTED: That the sum of \$750,000 be and hereby is appropriated, to be transferred from Overlay Reserve Surplus Accounts of previous fiscal years, said sum to be utilized to reduce the tax rate.**

**COMMENT:** *Each year, monies are set aside to cover tax abatements and exemptions. Unused accumulated "overlay" amounts are held in reserve until the Assessors determine that they are no longer needed, at which point the Assessors release funds, which can be used for other Town purposes. The Department of Revenue has requested a change to the wording so the new vote language will specify that the funds are utilized to reduce the tax rate rather than determining the tax rate.*

## ARTICLE 63

## USE OF FREE CASH

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the taking of a sum of money voted for appropriations heretofore made at the Town Meeting under the Warrant and not voted to be borrowed from available funds in the Treasury, and authorize the Assessors to use free cash in the Treasury to that amount in the determination of the tax rate for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024; or take any action related thereto.  
(Inserted at the request of the Finance Committee)

**VOTED: That the sum of \$8,941,936 be taken from available funds in the treasury, and that the Board of Assessors is instructed to use said amount to reduce the tax rate.**

**COMMENT:** *"Free Cash" or "Unencumbered Funds" is that surplus amount left after the close of a fiscal year. Once the funds are certified by the State Bureau of Accounts, they can be used for another fiscal year budget. It is the long-standing practice of the Town to use 50% of the available "free cash" in the next year after certification. This vote accomplishes that. The Department of Revenue has requested a change to the wording so the new vote language will specify that the funds are utilized to reduce the tax rate rather than determining the tax rate.*